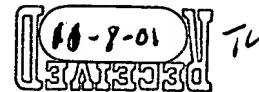


OfficialSubstitute
09/534,474**I CLAIM:**

- SAC*
- Bl
COP*
- NE*
1. (Twice Amended) A keyboard for use in performing typing tasks comprising:
a base having an upper side; and
a plurality of keys arranged in an array, including multiple rows with one of the multiple rows being a home row, on the upper side of said base, said keys including letter keys, a tab key, a backspace key, at least three shift keys and at least one function key, each of said letter keys corresponding to a respective letter of an alphabet of a language, wherein said at least three shift keys are located in a lower central portion of said array, grouped directly adjacent one another, and arranged in at least two of the multiple rows, said at least three shift keys being adapted to be engaged by thumbs of a user, wherein one of said rows includes selected ones of said letter keys arranged to spell out at least three, consecutively arranged multi-letter words when read from left to right and wherein both the tab and backspace keys are centrally located within the letter keys and located in a row above the home row.
 2. (Twice Amended) A keyboard for use in performing typing tasks comprising:
a base having an upper side; and
a plurality of keys arranged in an array, including multiple rows, on the upper side of said base, said keys including letter keys, a tab key, a backspace key, at least one shift key and at least one function key, each of said letter keys corresponding to a respective letter of an alphabet of a language, wherein one of said rows includes selected ones of said letter keys arranged to spell out at least three, consecutively arranged multi-letter words when read from left to right.
 3. The keyboard according to claim 2, wherein the language is English and the selected ones of said keys are selected from the group consisting of "R", "E", "A", "D", "O", "N", "T", "H", "I" and "S".
 4. Canceled.

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5. (Once Amended) The keyboard according to claim 2, wherein the language is English and the three words comprise "READ", "ON" and "THIS".

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6. The keyboard according to claim 5, wherein the one of said rows constitutes a home row in which fingers of a typist are adapted to be placed in an at rest condition.

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7. (Twice Amended) A keyboard for use in performing typing tasks comprising:
a base having an upper side; and
a plurality of keys arranged in an array, including multiple rows with one of the multiple rows being a home row, on the upper side of said base, said keys including letter keys, a tab key, a backspace key, at least one shift key and at least one function key, each of said letter keys corresponding to a respective letter of an alphabet of a language, wherein both the tab and backspace keys are centrally located within the letter keys and located in a row above the home row.

8. The keyboard according to claim 7, wherein the tab key and the backspace key are located in the same row.

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9. The keyboard according to claim 8, wherein the tab key is located to the left of the backspace key.

10. The keyboard according to claim 9, wherein the tab key is located directly adjacent the backspace key.

11. Canceled.

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12. (Once Amended) The keyboard according to claim 7, wherein the tab key and the backspace key are located in a third row down from a top of said base.

13. (Twice Amended) A keyboard for use in performing typing tasks comprising:
a base having an upper side; and
a plurality of keys arranged in an array, including multiple rows, on the upper side of said base, said keys including letter keys, a tab key, a backspace key, at least three shift keys and at least one function key, each of said letter keys corresponding to a respective letter of an alphabet of a language, wherein said at least three shift keys are located in a lower central portion of said array, grouped directly adjacent one another, and arranged in at least two of the multiple rows, said at least three shift keys being adapted to be engaged by thumbs of a user.

14. Canceled.

15. (Once Amended) The keyboard according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of shift keys includes four adjacent shift keys.

16. (Once Amended) The keyboard according to claim 13, wherein said plurality of shift keys are arranged in only two different rows on the keyboard.

17. (Once Amended) The keyboard according to claim 13, wherein said at least three separate shift keys are color coded.

18. (Once Amended) The keyboard according to claim 13, wherein two of said at least three separate shift keys perform identical functions.

19. The keyboard according to claim 13, wherein at least one of said plurality of shift keys constitutes a lower most key in the array.

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20. The keyboard according to claim 13, further comprising:
a scroll button located directly adjacent at least one of said plurality of shift keys.